

OPC BULLETIN



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Waller at keyboard for Oct. Jazz Night



MAURICE WALLER
Photo by: Herman Johnson

Maurice Waller, son of the legendary jazz pianist, Fats Waller, will celebrate the publication of his new book about his famous father at a Twilight Jazz session, Friday, October 28, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in OPC headquarters. Admission is free to members and guests with seating on a first-come basis.

Fats Waller is scheduled to be released this month by Schirmer Books, a division of Macmillan Publishers. The jazz session will feature Maurice, a recognized pianist in his own right, along with Allie Richardson on bass and Prince Ali on drums. Waller's program will not only highlight his father's incomparable music but personal reminiscences and anecdotes from his book about the singular American jazz artist who made international jazz history during his brief 39 years.

In 1974, the OPC Jazz Club was the focal force in celebrating the 70th Birthday Anniversary of Fats Waller. The occasion on May 21 brought together Waller alumni and friends in a memorable jazz event at the OPC.

Jazz chairman, Wilma Dobie, in a current book review for *Jazz Forum* writes: "The book is not only sprightly reading because it is a son's loving recollections of life with a famous father but it sheds new light on Waller's family upbringing, his tumultuous career, and serves as an education in the machinations of the entertainment and music industry's dealings with musicians in that era...It would be inconceivable, if not virtually impossible, to write a book about Waller that wasn't chock full of high good humor. His son, Maurice, does not disappoint us."

Press photos wanted for special exhibit

An exhibit of pictures taken by working journalists to whom photography is an ancillary skill is being planned for January according to Herb Silverman and Barrett Gallagher who head the OPC's art and photo committees.

Reporters and writers belonging to the club or working on the staffs of magazines and newspapers are invited to submit pictures taken as part of an assignment or on location, whether published previously or not.

Entries should be forwarded to Editor, OPC Press Photography Exhibit, at the Club. Pictures should be matted and captioned. An earnest request is made that name, address and affiliation of the entrant be firmly affixed to the back of the entry.

Farewell, Jimmy! We'll miss you

James E. Menditto, better known simply as "Jimmy" to the OPC membership, has resigned as Manager because of family obligations which required him to leave New York City.

At its September 12th meeting, the Board of Governors accepted Jimmy's resignation with regret and instructed the Executive Committee to arrange suitable compensation for his many years of service.

Jimmy first began work for the OPC as a bartender on May 17, 1955, when our headquarters were back at 39th Street. He was formally named Manager in November, 1972, after having served as Acting Manager since we were located at 40th Street.

The Board also moved that the Club's official certificate of appreciation be presented to Jimmy. It reads:

*The Overseas Press Club
of America
presents
this Certificate of Appreciation
to*

*JAMES E. MENDITTO
for his loyalty to the OPC from
1955 to 1977 and in recognition of
a significant contribution to the
aims and purposes of this profes-
sional organization.*

Mary Novick was named Acting Manager by the Board and all questions relating to Club affairs should be addressed to her.

Saffir lambasts Times and News



LEONARD SAFFIR
Photo by: Licciardi

Leonard Saffir played David to the three Goliaths of New York newspaperdom at a standing-room-only Shoptalk Luncheon on Thursday, September 15.

OPC president Matt Bassity welcomed the sellout crowd, remarking, "It's indicative of the widespread interest in today's program that we reached our cutoff point prior to the press conference that Len Saffir held on Tuesday."

Saffir lost no time before he started hurling rocks at the city's three dailies. Most were aimed at the *New York Times* and the *Daily News*.

"I say that both the *Times* and the *News* have stopped meeting the needs of New Yorkers," he charged. "Both papers came to town lean and hungry and ambitious. Now both are institutions. And, tell me, who cares about an institution? More important, who does an institution care about?"

The *Times* is so complicated, Saffir asserted, that "they should give away a road-map and compass with those

(Continued on page 2)

MacNeil & Lehrer discuss news revolution at Wednesday, Oct. 12, Shop Talk Luncheon



ROBERT MACNEIL and JAMES LEHRER

Dig we must for a growing audience.

If New York's Con Ed has not overworked the above slogan years ago, Canadian citizen Robert MacNeil and Kansas-born author Jim Lehrer might have adopted it as a motto for their popular Public Broadcasting Service evening TV newscast.

How the dynamic duo of TV journalism get their scoops and burgeoning audience will be the subject of the next "Shop Talk Luncheon" on Wednesday, October 12 starting at 12 noon. (Reservations please — Mary Novick 687-2430 — \$7.50 for members, \$8.00 for guests.)

Among the topics to be discussed will be their coverage of Watergate which won an Emmy and the 1974 George Polk Award for excellence in TV reporting.

According to MacNeil, "I believe we are on the verge of a consumer re-

volution in news. Many people are tired of only a machine-gun battery with short items of news." Convinced that the day is over when people "hopscotch the world for headlines," he believes in in-depth reporting.

The MacNeil/Lehrer Report probes a major news story each weeknight (7:00 or 7:30 ET on PBS). And in the past two years has won over twenty major awards for excellence from a diverse spectrum that includes film festivals, The American Cancer Society, American Bar Association and even the Eudora Welty Americana Award for Drama. The lively format of the program promises a lively "Shop Talk."

In the usual spirit of fair play, equal time will be given to NBC on October 20 when Carl Stokes will join us and to CBS on November 1 when Daniel Schorr visits. —Chas. Schreiber

Spanish "Noce" features Sherry and Tapas Oct. 27

Sherry and Tapas from Spain will be served Thursday evening, Oct. 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Casa Espana 314 East 39th St. (between 1st and 2nd Aves.) to Overseas Press Club members.

The world-renowned wine from Spain to be served will include all Sherry styles from the very dry to the deep-bodied creams. Tapas, famous tasty hors d'oeuvres of Spain, are the ideal accompaniment to Sherry, and "Sherry and Tapas" is a centuries-old custom of the cafes in the Sherry region.

The festive event is hosted by the Sherry Institute of Spain.

Reservations are limited to 100 people.

Contribution \$5 or more to the Special Events Committee — in advance, please.

Music night



Baritone David Nisstad will entertain at the October 11 Music Night with a medley of operatic selections and show tunes.

MOSS TO EXHIBIT

The artwork of Geoffrey Moss, a member of the *Washington Post* Writers' Group will go on display Oct. 1. The exhibit, arranged by Herb Silverman's Art Committee, will feature his political illustrations said to be the first ever syndicated without captions.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. — Music Night, David Nisstad, baritone; Barry Farber, accompanist.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 12 Noon, cocktails; 12:30 Luncheon — Shop Talk Luncheon. Robert MacNeil and James Lehrer. PBS award-winning news show "The MacNeil/Lehrer Report." Members \$7.50; Guests \$8.00.

Thursday, Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop With... Carl Stokes, Reporter, WNBC-TV News Center 4. Topic: "Election Roundup."

Monday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. — Semi-Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 5:30 p.m. — Cocktails at Home with Sally Jessy Raphael. Topic: "Talk Show Journalism."

Thursday, Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m. — Spanish Noce at Casa Espana, 314 East 39th Street. Contribution: \$5 or more, payable in advance.

Friday, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m. — Twilight Jazz. "Fats Waller Salute" by Maurice Waller.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop With... Daniel Schorr, News correspondent, journalist and author of a new book, "Clearing The Air".

RESERVATIONS: Please call Mary Novick, 687-2430. Reservation cancellations must reach the OPC 24 hours before the event, otherwise members will be charged the announced fee.

Saffir, continued from p. 1

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday extravaganzas." He also charged the *Times* with being like a schoolmaster in a Dickens novel, "arrogant in its smugness."

Saffir accused the *News* of adopting the "chip-on-the-shoulder" approach to journalism practiced by its star columnists, Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill. "It is obvious that to the *News*, Hamill and Breslin aren't just two columnists; they represent what the *News* thinks of itself," he charged. "The new *News*," he maintained, "has kept enough old bad habits and added enough new ones not to merit serious attention as a paper that speaks accurately to and for the people."

Saffir dismissed the *New York Post* with a few pungent comments. "There's not really much to say about the *Post*," he quipped, "not in mixed company."

Rupert Murdoch, the *Post's* new publisher, he said has performed a miracle: "He has taken the *Post* and, with millions of dollars and immense effort, actually made it into a more deplorable newspaper than it was before."

New York may be a three-newspaper town, he conceded. "But journalistically, it's a one-ideology town."

In *The Trib*, which he will launch later this fall, Saffir promised a paper that could be "read by busy New Yorkers who have to budget their time"; a paper "well-written and tightly edited with readers in mind"; a format that "encouraged, not discouraged, attention to news stories."

"A newspaper is as good as its people," he said, "and we are going to have the best."

Tinker Campbell-Ewald has carried out the market research for *The Trib* and has found a high degree of responsiveness to the idea of a third morning daily in New York. Potential advertisers have also given "a strongly affirmative reaction," Saffir maintained. But the existing New York newspapers have imposed a blackout on *The Trib*, Saffir charged. (In his introduction, Bassity had pointed out that the *News* and the *Times* had not mentioned Saffir's press conference, held at the OPC on Tuesday, Sept. 13.)

But the silence of his opponents and their size have not intimidated the publisher of New York's latest daily. "*The Trib* is here," he stated flatly, "— and it is here to stay!"

Others did as much, Lasky tells Shop Talk



VICTOR LASKY

Photo by: Licciardi

Victor Lasky came home to the Overseas Press Club September 8 and immediately proved, as Shop Talk Chairperson Larry Stessin said: "It is not important whether you agree or disagree with Victor Lasky, this country should have Victor Laskys!"

Since the OPC (when it was located on 40th Street) was his "stalking ground," it is fitting that the profession which prides itself on presenting both sides of a story hear Lasky who is, to say the least, "controversial."

Of course Lasky now has a best seller going for him: *It Didn't Start With Watergate*, and that exactly is his point. "There is not one President of the United States," he declared, "who has not lied to you: JFK at the Bay of Pigs; Ike, on the U-2; FDR who would never take this country into War; and Lyndon Johnson, on Vietnam."

At the Shop Talk meeting which was opened by Gloria Zukerman, Lasky asserted that there is much opinion in the U.S. which holds that the Nixon case had and is having a great amount of "overkill."

The author of *JFK The Man and the Myth*, Lasky also charges that he was "bugged by Robert Kennedy, probably with the knowledge of President Kennedy."

Indeed, he says that the "misuse of the FBI and the CIA in intelligence matters which were perilous to our institutions, antedates Richard Nixon. By the way, Lasky admitted, *It Didn't Start With Watergate* is a pro-Nixon book. And he goes on to say that Watergate — where Victor Lasky incidentally resides — was "idiotic and stupid." Yet he repeats his thesis that it was nothing compared to what other Presidents have done.

Asked about Bert Lance (who subsequently resigned) Lasky predicted that Lance "would have to go."

Is Lasky correct when he says, "Had Richard Nixon been a Democrat, the Democratic-controlled Congress would not have gone after President Nixon?" or that "human nature being what it is, will we continue to have Watergates?"

As for Lasky, it was obvious that he was enjoying the controversy around him and his book, including a blistering attack that very week in *Time* Magazine. After all, Victor Lasky would rather "be attacked than ignored." *Time's* blast will result in the sale of thousands of copies of *It Didn't Start With Watergate*, said the author himself, with a sweet smile of success.

—Ben G. Frank

Hartzenbusch to Hong Kong

Henry Hartzenbusch, AP Bonn, has been assigned by the Associated Press to Asia, with a base in Hong Kong. He will no longer be filing copy as OPC Bulletin Bonn Correspondent. We'll miss you, Henry. Best of luck on your new beat.

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WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

NEW LOOK: Stephen E. Korsen, for seven years manager of public relations and product publicity for The Nestle Company, Inc., White Plains, N.Y., has been appointed manager of consumer affairs, a newly created position . . . **Bunny Brower**, former copy chief and travel editor of *Seventeen Magazine*, is now happily freelancing. Summer activities included a trip to Aruba-Bonaire-Curacao for a honeymoon-travel story in *Modern Bride* (Dec./Jan. issue) and a special project for the U.S. Virgin Islands tourist office. Her home-office is 414 E. 52 Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10022; 212 755-5452 . . . **Jim Reibel** goes to International Voluntary Services, Inc., a non-profit international development group, as a community developer in Saraguro, Province of Loja, Ecuador. Reibel will continue to work for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as a correspondent, string for the *Daily Mail* of London, and free lance for magazines and newspapers. His address: International Voluntary Services, Inc. 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 . . . **Leonard E. B. Andrews**, an OPC member for 16 years, has started a new publication: *Swine Flu Claim & Litigation Reporter*. The Reporter, with offices in Edgemont, Pa. has already published more than 400 Swine Flu claims of \$5,000 and other material regarding the Swine Flu and the national Immunization Program of 1976 . . . **Dick Callahan** has been named publisher and editorial director of *Fastener Technology*, a new bimonthly magazine covering the mechanical fastener industry. Dick is presently publisher and editorial director of *Wire Technology*, another bimonthly publication, and also *Wire Industry News*, biweekly newsletter. Dick is living in Ridgefield, Conn. The editorial offices of the new publication are at 1 Bank Street, Stamford, Conn. 06901.

PUBLISHING: **Ruth Biemiller's** handsome four-color book "NEXT STOP . . . Paris" shows architecture, museums, monuments and paintings of "the city on the Seine," and the text tells of its history, includes directions for walking tours, and a critique of many permanent paintings. Publisher: The Stonehouse Press, the book is distributed by The Symphonette Press. Ruth Biemiller's "Crosswords" has just been published — a quartet of puzzle books, purse size, for Bonomo, a subsidiary of CBS. Formerly Cross Word Puzzle editor of the N.Y. Herald Tribune, Ruth has written many magazine articles — at the same time being one of the most active and ardent OPC volunteers, now an OPC Board of Governors member . . . **Henry Schmidt** will have his sixth edition of "Retirement Handbook" published by Harper & Row

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in October. He started and published *Lifetime Living* many years ago. An expert on planning for retirement — **Henry Schmidt** . . . **John J. Casserly**, veteran foreign and Washington correspondent has written "the first inside book" on the Ford Administration: "The Ford White House — Diary of a Speechwriter." . . . *The Chicago Catholic* is the new name of *The New World*, for 85 years a newspaper serving Cook and Lake Counties. Its editor, **A.I.P. Wall** is visiting Europe, and recently stopped in to see the OPC in New York . . . **William Pages**, director of public information of the Jewish Community Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey, is doing a series of human interest pieces for the *Jewish News*. Pages is off to Vienna and Budapest for material. Last year he won the "Best Special Publication" Award presented by the Council of Jewish Federations on an assignment to Iran and Israel . . . **Gregor Ziemer** has three articles appearing simultaneously last summer: in *The Christian Athlete*, *The Church Herald* and *Rural Gravure* — all about Ralph Samuelson, who invented water skiing in 1922, he says, and *Retirement Living*, **Helen Alpert's** magazine will use another story by Ziemer this fall . . . **Jack Pollock's** "Croiset the Clairvoyant" is in nine languages, the latest is the Icelandic edition . . . **Mr. (Apologies, Sir) Del Mulkey** has a story coming out in *Ski* magazine this fall, with photographs and text. He's married and has two children, lives in Paris.

ASSIGNMENTS wanted for **Abel Kessler**, former *New York Times* and Fairchild Publications writer, who now lives in the San Francisco area. Address: 1332 Singingwood Court 6, Walnut Creek, California 95485. (What does the wood sing?)

SEEN ON THE SCENE: **Newton Fullbright**.

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